

RI State Conservation Committee  
NRCS Conference Room  
60 Quaker Lane, Warwick  
Minutes  
April 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm

Present: Ken Ayers DEM, Ramona LeBlanc RISCC, Dick Went R C & D, Paul Goncalves Statewide Planning, Pooh Vongkhandy NRCS, Eric Offenbergs SCC, Jessica Blackledge ERICD, Emerson Wildes ERICD, Paul Dolan NRICD, Gina DeMarco NRICD, Kate Bousquet SRICD,

1. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of January 30, 2014. Paul/Ken  
Unanimous.

2. Financial Report: A motion was made to accept the financial report of January- April 2014: Paul/  
Emerson: unanimous.

3. Agreements: Geese Project:

The DEM geese project payment is being held up.

NRCS agreement: Tabled

Small Scale Forestry: Tabled

4. Old Business:

A. Farm Forest Open Space

1. Farm Values

a. SCC will ask Tom Sproul for scope of work and cost estimate.

2.. Farm Plans- not out by now.

a. Applicants will have a step by step process.

Motion to have each district decides the fee structure with a "not to exceed" clause in it. Ken/Paul-  
unanimous.

Motion was made that there will be a review fee of up to \$50 pre review if they write their own plan.  
Ken/Emerson- unanimous.

B. MOU- is being under review to determine if there is any transfer of liability between  
organizations.

Topic has been tabled.

C. SESC Handbook- each district has a copy. Review process is open.

D. Engineering RFP- 2 submissions for irrigation pond came in. Higher than thought.

1. Kevin is going to meet with DEM to adjust specs. Geo technical component. Wants  
permit by June or July.

3. Eivy is the new engineering Technician. Will be doing GIS, design, water sheds etc. She is a new resource that is available to the districts.

4. Ken Ayers of DEM Division of Agriculture has started the conversation regarding what they need on state owned land. Jean Lambert does have an engineering degree. What are the capabilities and practices that DEM can contract out? Target is to get a meeting with DEM by beginning of May.

E. SCC/FFOS Appointments-

1. Governor's office sent paperwork out. Waiting to submit it all at once.

F. NRCS- No money yet. Written report was distributed.

New Business:

A. Organic Certification Program- DEM will continue accreditation from FDA & USDA.

B. 2015 Budget/Shared overhead. Currently, the SCC pays for Johnston office but will likely revert to NRICD.

C. ERICD

2. Motion made by Ken 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul to put ERICD staffers on SCC payroll and to continue programs in ERICD. There are not funds available for administrative/overhead purposes.

D. Staffing - tabled

Motion made to adjourn at 5:35 pm by Paul/Emerson